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Letter dated 6 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw attention to the recently concluded eighth annual joint consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, held in New York on 6 June 2014.

During the consultative meeting, members of both Councils agreed upon a joint communiqué (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) U. Joy **Ogwu**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué of the eighth annual joint consultative meeting between members of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

1. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held their eighth annual joint consultative meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 6 June 2014.

2. They reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa as provided in the African Union Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council. They also reaffirmed the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of local disputes and recalled the outcomes of their previous consultative meetings. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council reviewed matters of common interest, in particular the conflict and crisis situations in Africa, as well as ways and means of strengthening the partnership between the two entities consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of the Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council.

3. They affirmed the responsibility of member States of the United Nations and the African Union to comply with their obligations under the relevant agreements in respect of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and the African Union, respectively.

On the situation in the Central African Republic

4. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council expressed concern at the security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, including recent attacks against civilians and humanitarian organizations, as well as intercommunal clashes involving former Seleka and anti-Balaka militias, which have resulted in harmful consequences to the civilian population, hampered the efforts of the international community to restore peace and stability in the country and worsened an already dire humanitarian situation in the country.

5. They condemned the persistent violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights in the country. In this context, they stressed the urgent and imperative need to end impunity in the Central African Republic and to bring to justice perpetrators of such violations and abuses. They also expressed concern at the dire humanitarian situation in the country and emphasized in particular the humanitarian needs of the more than 550,000 internally displaced persons and of the more than 300,000 refugees in neighbouring countries. They underscored the importance of providing financial support to those countries hosting refugees from the Central African Republic.

6. They recognized that the return of refugees and displaced persons as well as their participation in the political dialogue and elections to be held no later than

February 2015 are conditions for the return of lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic.

7. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council reaffirmed their commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic. They welcomed the positive and important impact of the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA), including in protecting civilians. They also welcomed the deployment of a United Nations operation in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), which marks a new step towards a broader and more sustained international engagement in the country. They made an urgent appeal to the international community and donors to mobilize substantial resources for MISCA to enable it to better fulfil its mission and prepare the ground for the smooth transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA on 15 September 2014. They stressed the need for the coordination of efforts between the United Nations, the African Union and the subregion (the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)) in ensuring a successful transition, drawing lessons from previous experiences. They also called for the close coordination of efforts with Operation Sangaris and the European Union mission to the Central African Republic. They further stressed the importance of the effective implementation of the measures contained in resolutions 2127 (2013) and 2134 (2014) to the re-establishment of peace and security in the country.

8. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council called upon the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic to promote political dialogue and national reconciliation.

9. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed the commitment and the positive role of the international community in resolving the crisis, especially the key role played by ECCAS and its Chairperson, Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, as well as the efforts of the African Union to resolve the crisis. They emphasized that the continued role of the region would be critical for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic. They welcomed the extraordinary summits of ECCAS held in Libreville in January and N'djamena in April 2013, which led to the establishment of the Government of Transition in the Central African Republic. They recognized the essential role of the Mediator, Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, and the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, co-chaired by the African Union Commission and the Republic of the Congo. They called upon international partners to provide financial contributions to address the many challenges facing the country.

10. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed the steps taken by the African Union Commission to develop a coordination mechanism between the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army and MISCA, in line with the relevant communiqués of the Peace and Security Council and with relevant United Nations Security Council presidential statements and resolutions.

On the situation in South Sudan

11. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council expressed their deep concern at the political, security, human rights and humanitarian situation in South Sudan, which had gravely deteriorated since the outbreak of violence on 15 December 2013. They underscored that attacks directed at civilians are unacceptable. They called for an immediate end to the violence and for the perpetrators to be held accountable, and reiterated the importance of full engagement in the inclusive peace process mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), as well as upholding fully the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement of 23 January 2014. They demanded that all parties allow, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies to all those in need, and underscored the need to strengthen humanitarian responses to populations in need.

12. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council strongly condemned the widespread human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, as well as the incitement to commit such abuses and violations, and emphasized that those responsible for such violations must be held accountable. They noted with deep concern that according to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) report dated 8 May 2014, there are reasonable grounds to believe that war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed by all parties to the conflict in South Sudan. They called upon the African Union Commission of Inquiry to pursue its work to ensure reconciliation and accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses committed during the armed conflict.

13. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed the signing of the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan by Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, and Riek Machar Teny, Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in Opposition, in Addis Ababa on 9 May 2014, under the auspices of Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair of IGAD. They urged the parties to fully implement this Agreement in good faith, towards an inclusive transitional government, national reconciliation and an open democratic system of governance that can respond to the basic needs of all of the people of South Sudan and protect their human rights. They underscored the importance of ensuring the effective participation of women at all levels of implementation of the Agreement, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. They commended IGAD for facilitating the political dialogue aimed at finding a lasting solution and reiterated the support of both organs in ensuring the success of these efforts. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council expressed their appreciation for the actions taken by UNMISS peacekeepers to protect civilians, including foreign nationals, under threat of physical violence and to stabilize the security situation. They called for the swift deployment and integration of forces from the region into UNMISS to support the Mission and its revised mandate.

On the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

14. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council expressed concern over the fragile security and humanitarian situation which

continues to prevail in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They also expressed concern over the destabilizing activities of armed groups, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). They welcomed the end of the rebellion by the 23 March Movement (M23) and the signing in Nairobi by M23 and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the documents concluding the Kampala Dialogue, facilitated by Uganda as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and stressed the importance of ensuring that all provisions of the signed documents are implemented swiftly and in good faith. They strongly condemned the ongoing violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including sexual and gender-based violence, and the recruitment and use of children perpetrated by armed groups, and called for the immediate cessation of all forms of violence.

15. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council called upon all signatories and countries in the region, in their efforts to fight against armed groups, to fulfil promptly, fully and in good faith their respective commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region. They urged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take further steps to implement their commitment under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, including the establishment of a professional, accountable and sustainable national army that includes a rapid reaction force, in accordance with its commitment to deepen security sector reform and the finalization of the development of a comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and a disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement plan. They reaffirmed their support for the good offices work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the Special Representative of the African Union for the Great Lakes Region, the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the United States of America, and the European Union Senior Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region to support the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework.

16. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council commended the contribution of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), including its Intervention Brigade, to further peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and welcomed the commitment of troop-contributing countries to MONUSCO in fulfilling its protection of civilians mandate.

17. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed the role played by regional and subregional organizations, including ICGLR and the Southern African Development Community, to find a durable solution to the crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. They called upon international partners to make every effort to ensure that the dividends of peace can be realized immediately through quick-impact projects at the local and regional levels to ensure economic development and to strengthen regional cooperation and economic integration.

On the situation in Mali

18. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in northern Mali, which continues to threaten the fragile peace in the country. They also expressed concern over the presence of terrorist groups and their gross violation of human rights.

19. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council took note of the signing on 23 May 2014 of a ceasefire by the Government of Mali and the Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad (MNLA), Haut Conseil pour l'unité de l'Azawad (HCUA) and Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad (MAA). They commended the efforts of the African Union Chair and Mauritanian President, Mohammed Ould Abdel Aziz, and the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali, Albert Koenders, in this regard. They urged the signatories to implement the ceasefire fully and in good faith.

20. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council called for the immediate resumption of the cantonment process and of sincere peace talks between the Malian Government and the armed groups signatory and adherent to the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement. They reiterated their support for the restoration of the authority of the Malian State over its entire territory and for a durable political resolution to the crisis and long-term peace and stability throughout the country, respecting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State.

21. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council reiterated their full support for the inter-Malian process of inclusive national political dialogue and reconciliation. They also reiterated their full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the High Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Mali and the Sahel, President Pierre Buyoya, in contributing to the implementation of the ceasefire, the stabilization of Mali and the launching of sincere peace talks on the basis of the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement.

22. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council expressed their full support for the efforts of all regional and international actors to bring long-term peace and stability in Mali. They also underscored the importance of addressing the deteriorating humanitarian situation in northern Mali.

23. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed the increased mobilization of the countries of the region, including against the scourge of terrorism and transnational organized crime in the Sahel-Saharan region, including through the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan Region, as well as the regional ministerial conferences on border security held in Tripoli in March 2012 and in Rabat in November 2013.

On the situation in Somalia

24. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council underlined the importance of their strategic partnership in Somalia. They welcomed the achievements of the current Somali National Army and the African Union

Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) operation and paid tribute to the troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries of AMISOM for their sacrifices and the national army personnel working for peace in Somalia. They commended the first 12 months of operation of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and welcomed the extension of the mandate. They also welcomed the support provided to AMISOM by the United Nations through the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council underlined that the long-term security of Somalia is dependent on developing the national army. They welcomed contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for support to the Somali National Army, consistent with the Security Council authorization in resolution 2124 (2013), and highlighted the urgent need for more funding from international partners. They also underlined the need for the Government of Somalia to abide by the terms of the suspension of the arms embargo and to comply fully with all their reporting requirements to the Security Council and relevant sanctions committee.

25. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Somalia. They underlined the urgent need for funding of the United Nations multi-year appeal, which has received only 19 per cent of the necessary funding. They deplored reports of Al-Shabaab blocking access to those most in need.

26. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed the recent formation of a new Government and Cabinet in Somalia. They paid particular tribute to the holding of successful elections in Puntland and the subsequent peaceful handing over of power. They welcomed the Government of Somalia's outreach to its regions, with the aim of the timely establishment of an effective federal State, and noted the importance of an inclusive political settlement which underpins the stability of Somalia. They expressed concern about the continued ability of Al-Shabaab to stage and launch operations and underlined the need for swift follow-up in providing basic services in areas liberated from Al-Shabaab, and emphasized the importance of humanitarian access to these areas. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council encouraged the Government of Somalia to complete its "Vision 2016" agenda towards elections by 2016, including achieving key milestones, such as a referendum on the constitution and the formation of interim State administrations, and expressed their willingness to support such a plan.

On the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

27. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council expressed deep concern at the considerable deterioration of the security situation in Darfur during 2013, with continued clashes between the Government of the Sudan and rebel armed groups and an intensification of intercommunal violence, including with the involvement of elements of paramilitary units and tribal militias, which have become the main source of violence against civilians and of population displacement. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council urged all parties to the conflict to cease all acts of violence immediately and to engage in the peace process without preconditions on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, in order to bring a durable and stable peace to the region. They reaffirmed their support for a Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations, called upon the Government of the Sudan and the armed groups to

ensure the necessary enabling environment for such a dialogue to begin promptly and in this regard welcomed the formation of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation Implementation Committee.

28. They commended the efforts of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) towards promoting peace and stability in Darfur, and reiterated their full support for UNAMID in the protection of civilians in Darfur amidst procedural, strategic and operational challenges to its mandate. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed the revised UNAMID strategic priorities of protecting civilians, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and ensuring the safety of humanitarian personnel, mediating between the Government of the Sudan and non-signatory armed movements on the basis of the Doha Document while taking into account ongoing democratic transformation at the national level and supporting the mediation of community conflict, including through measures to address its root causes. They noted that the ability of UNAMID to facilitate progress in the implementation of the Doha Document is hampered by delays by the signatory parties and the absence of an inclusive political settlement between the Government of the Sudan and non-signatory armed movements. They urged donors to honour their pledges and fulfil their obligations in a timely manner, including those commitments made at the conference in Doha in April 2013, and affirmed that development can support a lasting peace in Darfur.

29. They strongly condemned the attack on UNAMID facilities in Kabkabiya, Northern Darfur, on 24 May 2014, which resulted in the killing of a Rwandan peacekeeper, and expressed their condolences to the family of the fallen peacekeeper and the Government of Rwanda.

30. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed the announcement by President Bashir on 27 January of a national dialogue, and noted that the modalities of such a dialogue should provide an opportunity to address the legitimate grievances of the people of Darfur. They looked forward to further developments towards the implementation of an inclusive dialogue process and stressed the importance of the effective participation of women in this process, and in efforts towards peace in Darfur. They expressed satisfaction with the efforts made by the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Joint Chief Mediator and Head of UNAMID, Mohammed Ibn Chambas, in bridging the gap between the Government and the non-signatory rebel groups in the promotion of national dialogue. They also welcomed the joint efforts of the Joint Chief Mediator and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel to facilitate an inclusive process and encouraged them, within their respective mandates, to continue coordinating their efforts to ensure effective synergy.

On cooperation in combating terrorism in Africa

31. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council affirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations and whenever and by whomsoever committed. They highlighted the need for States to cooperate closely during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups in accordance with applicable international law and for all States to

afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorist acts. They called upon all member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages. In this regard, they acknowledged the important role of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa and the efforts of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism.

32. They called upon all States to continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, and to take all measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law to counter incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance and to prevent the subversion of educational, cultural and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters.

33. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council considered intelligence information sharing and sanctions as important tools in countering terrorism, and underlined the importance of prompt and effective implementation of the relevant resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), as key instruments in the fight against terrorism. In this context, they welcomed the decision of 22 May 2014 by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities to include Boko Haram on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List.

34. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council underscored that the long-term fight against terrorism must adopt a comprehensive approach by dealing with the challenges of increased economic growth, promoting good governance, reducing poverty, building State capacity, extending social services and fighting corruption, as well as promoting the culture of peace, dialogue and reconciliation among religions and civilizations.

Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council within the framework of the United Nations-African Union partnership

35. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council underlined the importance of the relationship between the two Councils in addressing peace and security needs in Africa and welcomed the progress made in this regard, including through regular meetings.

36. They agreed to elaborate further ways of strengthening relations between the two Councils, including through more effective annual consultative meetings, holding of timely consultations, and collaborative field missions of the two Councils, as appropriate, to formulate cohesive positions and strategies on a case-by-case basis in dealing with conflict situations in Africa.

37. They underscored the importance of providing support to African Union-led peace support operations on a flexible, predictable and sustainable basis, including through greater provision of financing by African Union member States and individual donor countries, while reiterating that regional organizations have the responsibility to secure human, financial, logistical and other resources for their

organizations, including through contributions by their members and support from partners.

38. They noted the collaborative efforts in conflict and crisis situations on a number of cross-cutting issues, including through the Framework of Cooperation between the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the African Union Commission Concerning the Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Africa, adopted in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2014, and welcomed the designation of Bineta Diop as the African Union Commission Chairperson's Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security. They also welcomed the first open session of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on children affected by armed conflict and noted the enhanced collaboration between the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

39. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council agreed to convene their ninth annual joint consultative meeting in Addis Ababa in 2015. The date of the meeting will be determined through consultations between the Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the President of the United Nations Security Council.